

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: Lawyers Admitted to Practice in Federal Court

FROM: The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska

RE: Combining the Omaha and Lincoln Civil Dockets/Request for Comments

DATE: May 8, 2003

On August 1, 2003, the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska proposes to combine the Omaha and Lincoln civil dockets. Before doing so, the court wishes to hear from lawyers who practice before the court.

If the proposal is adopted, the court will no longer maintain separate civil dockets for Omaha and Lincoln. In that event, there will be only one docket for civil cases from which district judges will be randomly drawn without regard to where the case was filed, without regard to the requested place of trial, and without regard to where the district judge is physically located. There will be no change in the way in which magistrate judges are paired. There will be no change in the manner in which juries or jury pools are selected.

As an example, if this proposal is implemented, a civil case filed with the court in Lincoln could be assigned to an Omaha district judge and tried in Omaha. On the other hand, a civil case filed in Omaha could be assigned to a Lincoln district judge and tried in Lincoln. However, in unusual cases, district judges will travel from their duty station to the courthouse in the other city to avoid undue inconvenience to lawyers, litigants and witnesses.

This proposal does not pertain to criminal cases. This proposal does not pertain to the North Platte docket.

The foregoing proposal was approved by an ad hoc committee of lawyers who practice before the court. It was also approved by the Federal Practice Committee which consists of other lawyers who practice before the court.

Comments regarding this proposal are solicited. Comments should be mailed, e-mailed or faxed on or before June 13, 2003. Comments should be addressed to:

Kristin Leininger
Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Kopf

Mail Address:

Room 586
Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

E-Mail Address:

Kristin_Leininger@ned.uscourts.gov

Fax Address:

402-437-5681